

CCS HCS SCS SB 569 -- ELECTIONS

(Vetoed by the Governor)

This bill changes the laws regarding elections. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Authorizes any county of the first classification to establish a law enforcement district under the provisions of the Missouri Law Enforcement District Act. Currently, any county of the first classification without a charter form of government and a population of 50,000 inhabitants or less may establish a district. Currently, a proposed district area must be contiguous. The bill specifies that two areas may be considered contiguous if both are adjacent to the shoreline of the same body of water. If any real property owner or registered voter within the proposed district does not sign the petition or file an entry of appearance and waiver of service of process, a copy of the petition must be served upon the owner or voter. He or she may object to the petition by filing a timely written answer. The district may impose, upon voter approval of at least four-sevenths of the registered instead of the current qualified voters, an annual property tax rate in an amount not to exceed 30 cents per \$100 assessed valuation; however, if the district does not impose the maximum allowable amount after initial voter approval, the district must obtain voter approval for any subsequent increase in the property tax rate. Another proposal cannot be submitted to voters sooner than 12 months from the date of the last submitted proposal. The district may self-insure if it is unable to obtain liability insurance coverage at a rate that is economically feasible to the district, considering its resources. Currently, a district's property tax levy may be terminated by a petition of the voters. This provision is repealed and requires a petition calling for an election to repeal the tax to be submitted to the district board and the board to submit a proposal to repeal the tax to voters (Sections 67.1860 - 67.1898, RSMo);

(2) Allows certain third class cities organized under Sections 78.010 - 78.400 to eliminate, by order or ordinance, any primary election for the office of mayor and councilman that is currently held in February. A person wishing to become a candidate for one of these offices must file a signed statement of candidacy with the city clerk in order to be placed on the ballot at the next municipal election (Section 78.090);

(3) Changes the age requirement for a person to be an alderman in a fourth class city from at least 21 years of age to at least 18 years of age (Section 79.070);

(4) Adds sales taxes levied by the Jackson County Transit Authority for the operation of transportation facilities to the list of taxes that cannot be deposited into a special allocation fund for the purposes of tax increment financing (Section 99.845);

(5) Requires an election judge to take an oath affirming to support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Missouri Constitution (Section 115.091);

(6) Removes the first Tuesday after the first Monday in February and June as a date for a public election, allows a bond election to be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in February but no other issue can be included on the ballot, adds a tax election necessitated by a financial hardship due to a decline of 5% or more in per-pupil state revenue from the previous year to the list of specified exceptions to the requirement that an election on certain issues can be held only on specific dates, and changes the date for an election for a presidential primary from the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in February (Section 115.123);

(7) Specifies that any election authority or political subdivision or any employee of an authority or political subdivision who is responsible for the oversight of the filing of candidates who discourages, hampers, pressures, or attempts to prevent another person from filing for office for the purpose of eliminating the requirement to hold an election because the number of candidates filing is the same as the number of positions to be filled will be guilty of a class four election offense (Section 115.637); and

(8) Repeals the provision requiring the party emblem to be printed on the ballot above the party caption (Section 115.241).